

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 SP-02 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 IGA-01

COME-00 /084 W

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P R 131618Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8256

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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PASS AGRICULTURE

GENEVA FOR TNC DELEGATION

MOSCOW FOR BILATERAL ECONOMIC DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AORG

SUBJECT: FAC AND IWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. SUMMARY. AGREEMENT REACHED FAC/WTC OUGHT TO BE EXTENDED FOR ONE YEAR. DEBATE OVER ESTABLISHING WORKING GROUP ON POSSIBLE NEW GRAIN AGREEMENT, INCLUDING RESERVE PROVISIONS, INCONCLUSIVE AND WILL CONTINUE IN FEB 13 COUNCIL SESSION. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKING GROUP LIKELY TO BE SO BROAD AS TO AVOID MENTION OF SPECIFICS SUCH AS RESERVES.

2. FOOD AID COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE MET MORNING FEB 12 AND AGREED ON PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (TO BE HELD FEB 13 OR 14) FOR ONE-YEAR EXTENSION FOOD AID CONVENTION. DECISION TAKEN IN LIGHT OF EC POSITION THAT IT WOULD NOT
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AGREE TO LONGER PERIOD DESPITE PREFERENCE OF LARGE NUMBER

OF MEMBERS (INCLUDING US) FOR TWO-YEAR EXTENSION. US ALSO NOTED ITS RATIFICATION OF EXTENSION DEPENDED UPON CONTINUED PARTICIPATION OF PRESENT MEMBERS.

3. COMMITTEE ALSO: A) REVIEWED CURRENT YEAR PERFORMANCE OF MEMBERS -- IN WHICH CONNECTION USDEL NOTED LARGE INCREASE IN US FOOD AID BUDGET AS COMPARED WITH FY74 AND CORRESPONDING ESTIMATED COMMODITY LEVELS -- AND B) BRIEFLY DISCUSSED POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR FAC OF WFC RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RECONSTITUTING WFP INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE (IGC). WFP OBSERVER SAID THAT CURRENT SECRETARIAT THINKING ABOUT IGC MEETING TO BE HELD IN MARCH FAVORS OPENING RECONSTITUTED IGC TO MEMBERSHIP BY ALL UN MEMBERS WHILE ESTABLISHING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IDENTICAL WITH PRESENT LIMITED MEMBERSHIP. PRIVATELY, WFP OBSERVER NOTED TO USDEL THAT WFP RECOGNIZED THAT DONORS WOULD TEND TO TURN AWAY FROM MULTILATERAL WFP AND TOWARD BILATERAL AID IF NEW STRUCTURE PUT THEM IN MINORITY POSITION.

4. IWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 12. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT WHEAT TRADE AND FOOD AID CONVENTIONS SHOULD BE EXTENDED FOR LIKE PERIODS -- IN THIS CASE FOR ONE YEAR. TWO OTHER ITEMS OCCUPIED MOST OF COMMITTEE'S TIME. FIRST, USSR PRESSED SECRETARIAT ON SCOPE OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN IWC AND FAO PURSUANT TO WFC RESOLUTION ON FOOD INFORMATION SYSTEM. SOVIET DEL WAS ASSURED THAT IWC MADE AVAILABLE ONLY OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED INFORMATION COLLECTED AND ANALYZED IN COURSE OF NORMAL IWC FUNCTIONS AND THAT IWC BENEFITED FROM INFORMATION SUPPLIED IN EXCHANGE BY FAO. SECONDLY, THERE WAS PROLONGED EXCHANGE ON ESTABLISHING PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF POSSIBLE NEW WHEAT AGREEMENT APPROVED AT PREVIOUS IWC SESSION.

5. EC OPENED DISCUSSION BY URGING NEED TO GO SLOWLY SINCE RELATED DEVELOPMENTS WERE TAKING PLACE ELSEWHERE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICULARLY AT GENEVA IN MTN DISCUSSIONS. EC SAID IT WOULD NEED TO REFLECT ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING RECENT AD HOC DISCUSSIONS ON POSSIBLE RESERVES AGREEMENT. US ARGUED THAT CONSIDERABLE PREPARATORY ANALYTICAL AND TECHNICAL WORK WAS NEEDED ON GRAIN RESERVES AND SHOULD PROCEED WITHOUT DELAY FOR WHICH I/WC WAS WELL-SUITED. AUSTRALIA AND CANADA FOCUSED ON OTHER ELEMENTS, SUCH AS MARKET STABILITY, AND ON THE NEED TO PROCEED WITH PREPAR-

ATIONS FOR NEW GRAINS AGREEMENT. USSR PROPOSED THAT IWC PREPARATORY GROUP WORK ON DRAFTING STRUCTURE FOR NEW AGREEMENT WITH SUBSTANTIVE DETAILS THEN TO BE NEGOTIATED IN SPECIAL CONFERENCE CONVENED BY UNCTAD.

6. US HALTED THIS TRAIN OF DEVELOPMENTS BY OUTLINING IN SOME DETAIL ELEMENTS OF ANY AGREEMENT DEALING WITH GRAIN RESERVES WHICH WE BELIEVE NEED FURTHER TECHNICAL STUDY. OTHERS DREW BACK FROM DEALING WITH SPECIFICS AND DISCUSSED QUESTIONS OF COMPOSITION OF WORKING GROUP AND ITS

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TERMS OF REFERENCE IN GENERAL TERMS. NO AGREEMENT REACHED, BUT IT BECAME CLEAR THAT IWC MEMBERS WOULD INSIST UPON WORKING GROUP PARTICIPATION BEING OPEN TO ANY IWC MEMBER, WITH WORKING GROUP POSSIBLY AUTHORIZED TO INVITE NON-MEMBERS. IT ALSO BECAME CLEAR THAT EC DEL UNDER INSTRUCTION TO RESIST ESTABLISHING WORKING GROUP AT THIS TIME. HE REFERRED TO VALUE OF REFLECTION IN IWC

WHILE OTHER INITIATIVES, SUCH AS AD HOC APPROACH LAUNCHED BY US AND WORK IN MTN, PROCEED. EC DEL ALSO INDICATED THAT EFFECT OF FEB 10-11 DISCUSSIONS ON HIS POSITION MAY HAVE BEEN TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN HANDLING PREPARATORY WORK UNDER AD HOC UMBRELLA, WHILE AT SAME TIME DAMPENING THEIR POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE OF PREPARATORY WORK UNDER IWC. PRIVATELY, EC DEL SAID HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ARGUE IN BRUSSELS THAT HE COULD NOT RESIST WILL TO ESTABLISH A BROADLY INSTRUCTED WORKING GROUP - IF THIS APPROACH ATTRACTED WIDE SUPPORT IN COUNCIL MEETING ON FEB 13. ON THIS BASIS, HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT WORKING GROUP AD REFERENDUM.

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7. DISCUSSION WILL RESUME IN MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL. WE BELIEVE THAT, AT THIS STAGE, ONLY VERY BROAD TERMS OF REFERENCE WHICH LEAVE OPEN OPTIONS TO ALL PARTIES AVOID SPECIFYING PARTICULAR INTERESTS OF ANY COUNTRY ARE LIKELY TO SECURE COUNCIL APPROVAL.

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